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# THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY, AND COLONIAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XXIII.

MAY, 1847.

No. 5.

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# THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

## COLONIAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXIII.]

WASHINGTON, MAY, 1847.

[No. 5.]

### Despatches from Liberia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Monrovia, Jan. 29, 1847.

SIR:—By the good barque "Liberia Packet," which arrived in our harbor on the evening of the 6th inst. thirty-two days from the capes of Virginia, with emigrants and stores for this place and Cape Palmas—I had the honor of receiving your favor of the 1st ultimo, covering roll of emigrants, &c., &c.

As directed by you, I have located the emigrants for this part of Liberia—except one young man sent out by Mr. Atkinson of Virginia, who desired him to locate at Millsburg with a family sent to the colony by his sister several years ago—at Bexley, in charge of Dr. Smith, who accompanied them down, and who will give them every attention in his power. I have also employed Mr. Benson to take charge of their stores, to look after their welfare, and to attend to the managing of their affairs during the six months they are to remain under the care of the Society.

The arrival of the Packet with Dr. Lugenbeel and the passengers on board was hailed with great satisfaction.

She is indeed a first rate vessel, in every respect well fitted for the accommodation of passengers. And Dr. Hall is entitled to much praise

for the admirable manner in which he has arranged the emigrant apartment; it possesses, as far as I am competent of judging, every convenience necessary to health and comfort.

The people here generally are pleased with the vessel, and, I believe, with the enterprise—all with whom I have conversed on the subject express great confidence in her success. If properly managed she will no doubt do a good business, and be profitable to her owners. I understand some stock will be taken here, and at Grand Bassa—what amount I have not been able to ascertain. It is my intention to take a few shares if I can so arrange my money matters; to-morrow I will write you further on the subject.

Enclosed you will receive copies of a communication from Captain Murray of her Majesty's sloop "Favorite," and my reply, respecting the light in which England regards the sovereignty of these colonies, &c. &c. Captain Murray was very civil and expressed himself deeply interested in the prosperity of the colony.

He suggested the propriety of the people of Liberia, in the event of a change of their relations with the Society—proposing a commercial treaty with Great Britain, which he

thinks would bring about a speedy recognition of the independence of Liberia by his Government.

Commodore Read arriving here just at the time of this correspondence, I communicated to him its character and requested his opinion in regard to certain principles of common international law laid down by Captain Murray, respecting the future extension of our territory. Accompanying I send you a copy of the commodore's reply, containing his opinion in regard to the controverted points.

I understand he has written a strong letter to the Secretary of the Navy, respecting foreign interference with these colonies, their commerce, resources, &c., &c., and has recommended them to the favorable notice of his Government.

Before leaving for Cabenda, Commodore Read was good enough to order Captain Pope, of the U. S. Brig "Dolphin," to cruise on this part of the coast, to watch the movements of the slavers at Gallenas, and to render every assistance to the colonies, consistent with his duty as an American naval officer. I hoped to take advantage of the Dolphin's cruise on the Liberia coast, to visit our leeward settlements, and to negotiate with the natives for certain intermediate points of territory. In this, however, I have been disappointed. Immediately on receiving the order, Capt. Pope proceeded on a short cruise to leeward showing himself off New Cess, Tradetown, &c., &c. In a few days, however, he received intelligence of the arrival of an American barque at Cape Mount, under rather suspicious circumstances. He felt it his duty to proceed immediately to that place to watch her movements, where he has remained ever since, and where he will probably remain—as the objects of the vessel referred to cannot be satisfac-

torily ascertained—until he finds it necessary to proceed to Porto Praya to fill up his stores. I sincerely hope that Captain Pope may not be driven to that necessity, for should he leave, and if, indeed, it be the object of the vessel to take slaves, she will have a fine opportunity during his absence—so much for not having a supply of naval stores at this place.

By the minutes of the council, herewith transmitted, you will perceive that a convention has been ordered to meet in this town on the first Monday in July next, for the purpose of forming a constitution for the government of Liberia. The new government will probably go into operation about the first of next year.

The subject of independence was elaborately discussed before the Legislature at the commencement of the session:—fears were entertained that we were going to have rather a stormy time. After the first two or three days, however, members began to understand each other, and the business of the session progressed, and measures respecting the independence of Liberia, were adopted with great unanimity.

I send you copies of deeds for three tracts of country purchased from the natives in December last, being portions of the territories known as Timboo and Manna, comprising about fifteen miles of sea coast, and running back into the interior about fifty miles.

The sloop "Economy," which vessel I purchased a month or two ago on account of the Society, for \$1,500—left here on the 25th inst., with commissioners and a suitable assortment of merchandize to continue our purchases of territory along the coast. I hope by the next opportunity to be able to give you a good account of our doings, notwith-

standing the increased opposition of foreign traders and their efforts to alienate the affections of the natives, and to break off our negotiations with them for territory. I find that their friendship is not diminished, and that many of them are still disposed to cede to us their territories, and incorporate themselves with the colonists. I found it impossible to prosecute successfully our operations along the coast, without the aid of a suitable vessel—and to charter one for the length of time we should require her services would be exceedingly expensive. I therefore concluded to purchase the “Economy” for the occasion; and when we shall have finished our negotiations to sell her to some of our traders, thereby saving an expense of several hundred dollars, as we hope to obtain for her nearly the amount she cost us originally, independent of her services.

You will regret to learn, that there has been an unprecedented flood in the Sinou river, during the past rainy season, which has caused much damage to the crops of natives and colonists settled upon its banks. The settlement of Reedsville, situated four miles up the river, was completely inundated, and the farms for two miles around were four feet under water. The natives were gathered at numerous points on both sides of the river, gazing in dismay upon the angry flood of waters, which far exceeded in fearfulness any thing they had ever before beheld. I am happy to inform you, though there were several narrow escapes, that no lives were lost. It is feared, however, that the great damage the crops sustained will produce during the present season, considerable suffering in that part of the colony. Indeed, applications have already been made to me for assistance, and I regret exceedingly that

I have not been able to render them that assistance which their situation seems to demand. I shall however, give them all the aid in my power. I have determined to remove the settlement of Reedsville to a more elevated site about two miles east of the one it now occupies, and have given Mr. Murray directions accordingly—which he will carry into effect immediately. The Rexes are sadly disappointed in not receiving by the Packet a portion, at least, of the amount due them from their late master's estate. It is indeed surprising, why the court withholds the amount from them.

Have you ascertained from Mr. McLane since his return to the U. S., whether the documents respecting the seizure of the “John Seys” from the authorities of this place, forwarded to the British Government under cover to him, were ever received and delivered?

Willis Helm is very much mortified and annoyed at the manner in which he has been duped, with respect to certain statements contained in a letter sent by him to his friend in Virginia. Not being able to write himself, he procured the assistance of a friend (a foreigner he says,) to write for him, but he declares that he never authorized the erroneous statements in question, and intends to have them corrected.

I believe he intends writing to you by this conveyance, detailing some curious facts connected with the authorship of that letter.

Thinking that a larger number of emigrants than those by the Packet would probably arrive in the vessel from New Orleans, to sail about the 20th December for the Kentucky settlement—it was thought advisable that Dr. Lugenbeel should remain to take charge of them.

I this moment received a note from Captain Pope, of the U. S. Brig Dol-



phin, off Cape Mount, in which he says, "Capt. Canot says he is desirous to sell Cape Mount—and will let the colony have it for five thousand dollars less than he offered it to the English." He declares it to be his determination to quit this part of the country: where he intends going I know not, but conjecture.

I am confident an effort will be made to ship the slaves at the Galienas. I have strong suspicions, &c., &c.; and I regret exceedingly, that I am not in a faster sailing vessel than the "Dolphin." I see that the President in his message to Congress, recommends the employment of one or more steamers on foreign stations. A steamer, attached to the African squadron would no doubt render incalculable service, could be employed to greater advantage than on any other coast.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.

Rev. W. McLAIN,

*Secretary Am. Col. Society,  
Washington City, U. S. A.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

*Monrovia, Feb. 6, 1847.*

SIR:—In my despatch of the 29th ultimo, you will notice an extract from Capt. Pope's note to me of January 23d, in which reference is made to Capt. Canot's willingness to sell Cape Mount to the colony, &c. &c. I beg to call your particular attention to that subject, and request that you will instruct us as to the course proper to be pursued in regard to any proposition he may make respecting the sale of it.

Captain Canot, I understand, finds himself and property very insecure at Cape Mount, and has determined to abandon the place. He has not dared to land any part, or but a small portion of the cargo brought out by him from the United States. Prince

Cane, a powerful and influential chief in that country, threatens to seize any goods he may land. It is supposed that Cane is under foreign influence and instigated by it to pursue the course he has adopted in regard to Canot's operations.

We are under renewed obligations to Commodore Read for the readiness with which he responded to our request, to allow one of the vessels under his command to cruise for a short time on the coast of Liberia; and to render the authorities here any assistance in his power to facilitate their negotiations with the natives for territory.

I herewith enclose to you our correspondence on the subject, which will give you some idea of the good feelings entertained by officers of the U. S. Squadron towards the colonies.

I should like very much to own a few shares of the Liberia and Chesapeake Company stock, and shall be glad if you can make it convenient to purchase on my account, five or ten shares as you may think best.

General Lewis talks of taking a few shares, and will write to you on the subject by this vessel. Accompanying, you will receive accounts from the colonial warehouse for the quarter ending 31st December, 1846.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.

Rev. WM. McLAIN,

*Sec'y and Tr. A. C. S.*

*Washington City, U. S. A.*

LETTER FROM A BRITISH OFFICER—COMMANDER MURRAY.

H. M. SLOOP FAVORITE,

*Messurado, Dec. 8th, 1846.*

SIR:—Acting under the orders of Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, R. C. B., I have come here to invite you to furnish me with information regarding the present state, and fu-

ture prospects, of the interesting Colony of Liberia.

1. In the first instance, I have to request, that you will permit me to construct a chart of the line of coast occupied by the Liberians, in which to mark the territories now in their possession, and clearly show the connection, or separation, which may exist between the several points, together with the distance inland, the names and positions of the various settlements, and such information with regard to the state of the population, cultivation and development of the different districts, as you may be willing to give me.

2. Should you consent to the construction of such a chart, I will furnish you with a copy, and will request your signature to the original, and I trust you will not think that I ask too much if I demand to see the title deeds by which are held the territories in question.

3. I have further to inform you, that *England recognizes your right to these territories, if legally purchased from the rightful owners of the soil*, regarding you in the light of a society, or private company of traders or settlers; but that in no case can she admit the exercise of sovereign rights, in which may be included the payment of custom dues.

4. The facts of your having constructed a light house, and of maintaining a light on Cape Messurado, of the canal now in progress to connect the river with the sea, and the intended breakwater to protect it, I consider as efforts such as to justify your levying the tax of fifteen dollars on each vessel, which opens a trade with the colony: but I must clearly reserve the right, of at least remonstrance, should that tax be increased, or remitted in favor of any other nation, than Great Britain.

5. I need scarcely mention, that common international law does not allow the claim to territory which may have been only partially purchased and occupied in detached portions; and as I have reason to believe that on some parts of the coast, within or between your limits, British subjects have acquired rights of property, such as the sites of factories, it is obvious that such rights must be respected in the event of your purchasing the lands surrounding the sites; and it becomes my duty to disallow the legality of a purchase should the previous occupant have been a subject of Great Britain and the sale have been made over his head, without his concurrence.

6. Any answer, which you may favor me with, to this communication, I shall receive with much pleasure, and shall lose no time in forwarding a copy thereof to my superior officer,—and, with the utmost respect,

I remain, sir,

Your obed't servant,

ALEX. J. MURRAY,

Com. of H. M. S. Favorite.

A true copy:

J. N. LEWIS, Col. Sec'y.

GOV. ROBERTS' REPLY TO THE PRECEDING.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Monrovia, Liberia, Dec. 10, 1846.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst.; in which you request permission "to construct a chart of the line of coast occupied by the Liberians, in which to mark the territories now in their possession; that I would attach my signature to such a chart, and allow you to examine the title deeds by which are held the territories in question." You have also been pleased to say, that England recognizes our right to



these territories, if legally purchased from the rightful owners of the soil: regarding us, however, only in the light of a society, or private company of traders, or settlers; but that in no case can she admit the "exercise of sovereign rights, in which may be included the payment of custom dues."

Further, "that common international law, does not allow the claim to territory which may have been only partially purchased, and occupied in detached portions; and that in the event of this Government purchasing the lands surrounding sites of factories in which British subjects have acquired rights of property, it will be your duty to disallow the legality of such a purchase, if made over the heads of or obtained without the concurrence of such British subjects."

In answer to your request to construct a chart, &c., I have great satisfaction in assuring you, sir, that no objections are or could be entertained; nor have we any objections to exhibiting the title deeds by which are held the territories claimed by this Government. I must, however, until informed for what purpose my name is required, beg to decline placing my signature to the chart you propose to construct. The light in which England regards these colonies in their present connection with the American Colonization Society has already been the subject of protracted correspondence between some of her Majesty's naval officers on this station and the authorities at this place. I therefore beg that you will excuse me from entering again upon the discussion of this, at least to us, vexed question, especially as the subject of our relations with the Colonization Society is now under consideration here, and probably in a few months, measures, recommended by the Society,

will be adopted by the people of these colonies—which will of course change our present relations, and place Liberia in a less anomalous position.

I need not remind you, sir, of the object of the people of these colonies in expatriating themselves, and settling upon this distant coast, in their opinion, the only asylum for their oppressed race.

Here they hoped to found a Republic—a Government emphatically their own; where they and their children might enjoy undisturbed civil and political rights, and at the same time to introduce among the barbarous tribes of this coast the great blessings of civilization and Christianity; and expel, at least from these western shores, the abominable traffic in human flesh. To effect these great objects, it has ever been our cherished purpose to obtain from the natives—*always by fair purchase*—the entire line of coast from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas inclusive. Happily we have succeeded in securing the largest portion of this territory, and are now in treaty with the natives for most of the remaining unpurchased points, and hope in a few months to be able to extinguish the native title to all the lands lying between the points mentioned above. If in acquiring these points, we should purchase lands surrounding sites of factories owned by British subjects or other foreigners, legally purchased from the rightful owners of the soil, they will most assuredly be respected.

*I apprehend, however, that we shall not be required to obtain the consent of British subjects before we are permitted to purchase lands, which do not belong to them, and over which they have no control.*

And, sir, will not the principle of "common international law," which you have called our attention to, ap-

ply as well to such purchases of individuals as any which may be made by this Government; or, if you please, to a society or company of traders? It is hoped, however, that we shall have no difficulty with any foreign traders, in that respect; and that no foreign power will interpose or throw embarrassments in the way of our obtaining the extent of coast in question. Indeed, to be interrupted in these negotiations, by any foreign power, would be disastrous to our fondest hopes.

Already these colonies have done much for Africa, perhaps more than has been accomplished by any other measure—especially in the suppression of the slave trade.

Slavery cannot exist within the jurisdiction of Liberia, and every purchase of territory by this Government inflicts a mortal wound to the accursed traffic. I hesitate not to say that had we the means at command to purchase the territory on which the foreign slave trade is conducted, in less than two years we could effectually abolish it from this part of the African coast.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

J. J. ROBERTS,

*Gov. of the Commonwealth  
of Liberia.*

Capt. ALEX. J. MURRAY,

*H. M. S. Favorite,*

*Messurado Roads.*

A true copy:

J. N. LEWIS,

*Colonial Secretary.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

*Monrovia, Dec. 14, 1846.*

SIR:—As you are aware, considerable amount of money has been raised in the United States by voluntary subscription, to assist the people of these colonies in extinguishing the native title to all the lands lying between Cape Palmas and Cape

Mount. In accomplishing which, we have succeeded to some considerable extent. During the last year we have purchased from the aboriginal inhabitants about sixty miles of sea coast. Foreign traders, I learn, have become displeased at this, and are doing all in their power to prejudice the natives against entering into further negotiations with us, by which means they hope to defeat our purpose. Recent developments, too, demonstrate to us, that we have not only to contend with traders and merchants, but that two powerful nations are disposed to possess themselves of a part at least, of the territory in question. Therefore, no time should be lost by this Government in concluding its negotiations with the natives.

In this emergency, sir, the mere presence of an American armed vessel would be of infinite service to this colony, and greatly facilitate our negotiations with the natives, and no doubt be the means of preventing improper interference on the part of foreigners. May I therefore request, sir, as you very kindly on your first arrival at this place offered to the authorities any assistance in your power—consistent with your duty and the interest of your government—that you will allow one of the vessels under your command to cruise at least four or five weeks on this part of the coast, and render us any assistance you may be pleased to direct.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.

Commodore G. C. READ,

*Commanding U. S. Squadron*

*West Coast of Africa.*

U. S. FRIGATE "UNITED STATES."

*Messurado Roads, Dec. 16, 1846.*

SIR:—Your letter of the 14th inst. has been received.

Instructions have been given to

Commander Pope, of the "Dolphin," to meet your wishes in regard to the presence of a man-of-war, when you may find a suitable occasion to negotiate the purchase of the territory which lies between Cape Mount and Cape Palmas, the title to which has not yet been extinguished.

Commander Pope will give you every facility that can be afforded by an American naval officer. But it is necessary to remind you, that Commander Pope will not probably be able to remain on this part of the coast beyond the middle of February, in consequence of the stores at this place being nearly exhausted.

Hoping that you may succeed to the extent of your wishes in extinguishing the native title to all the lands between Cape Mount and Cape Palmas,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

GEO. C. READ,

*Comd'g. U. S. Naval Forces*

*West Coast of Africa.*

To Gov. J. J. ROBERTS.

U. S. BRIG DOLPHIN,

*Harbor of Monrovia, Dec. 15, 1846.*

SIR:—I am directed by the commander-in-chief of the African squadron, to remain on this part of the coast, and to offer you every facility consistent with my duty as an American naval officer, for the acquisition of such territory between this place and Cape Palmas as the Colony of Liberia may desire to possess.

I have to request, that you will please to inform me what places you wish to visit. And I cheerfully offer you the accommodations of my cabin. I am ready for sail, and wait your pleasure.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN POPE, *Comd'r.*

Hon. J. J. ROBERTS,

*Gov. of the Colony of Liberia.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

*Monrovia, Dec. 16, 1846.*

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of yesterday. Commodore Read has, as appears from your letter to me, laid the people of these colonies under renewed obligations to the Government of the United States, and to himself by permitting one of the vessels under his command to remain on this part of the coast—and charging you with the duty of offering any facilities, consistent with the duty of an American naval officer, to the authorities of Liberia, in negotiating with the natives for certain territories lying between this place and Cape Palmas.

My most cordial thanks are due, and I beg, sir, that you will accept them for the tender of the accommodations of your cabin. As our fiscal year is about closing, and I have many accounts and reports to prepare for the Legislative Council which meets early in January—it will be quite impossible for me to leave Monrovia short of eight or ten days. In the mean time, it is important—as information reached me last evening, that efforts are now being made by an English trader to induce the natives at Timboo to discontinue their negotiations with us, and allow him to purchase the territory—that an agent of the colony should visit that place and conclude a purchase as early as possible.

Would it therefore be agreeable to you, sir, to receive on board your vessel General Lewis, and convey him to Timboo for that purpose? If so, he will be ready to embark tomorrow at any time you will name.

The points we wish to purchase, and which I am anxious to visit for that purpose, are New Cess, Trade Town, Manna, Sawquin, Settra Kroo, Grand Cess, and one or two less im-



portant points in the South, a part of Little Cape Mount, and Grand Cape Mount in the North.

I am, sir, your obed't servant,  
J. J. ROBERTS.

To Captain JOHN POPE,  
*U. S. Brig Dolphin,*  
*Messurada Roads.*

U. S. BRIG DOLPHIN,  
*Messurada Roads, Dec. 17, 1846.*

SIR:—I have received your communication of the 16th inst., in which you ask if it would be agreeable to me to receive General Lewis on board this vessel, and convey him to Timboo for the purpose of making some negotiations. In reply I have to state, that it will not only be agreeable, but will afford me much pleasure so to do; and I beg that you will be pleased to communicate with General Lewis, and say to him, that I should like to have him come on board as early to-morrow morning as his arrangements will permit; and that a boat shall be at his service at any hour he may name after daylight.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully,  
Your obed't servant,  
JOHN POPE, *Comd'r.*

Hon. J. J. ROBERTS,  
*Gov. of the Colony of Liberia.*

LETTER FROM DR. LUGENBEEL.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA,

February 8, 1847.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—I embrace the opportunity afforded by the return of the "Liberia Packet," to send you a hastily written communication; my time being so much occupied, that I cannot give that attention to my correspondents which I desire. Besides, I have already suffered so much in Africa, in consequence of letter-writing, that prudence warns me to be more cautious in future.

After a delightful voyage of thirty-four days and a half from Baltimore,

we "let go anchor" in the harbor of Monrovia, on the night of the 6th ultimo. The first half of the voyage was rather stormy, the "mountain waves" rolling in awful grandeur; but we were so comfortably situated on board the Packet, that we experienced very little inconvenience on that account. Altogether we had a very pleasant time, in a very pleasant vessel, commanded by a very pleasant captain. We passed near several of the Cape Verd Islands, so near one of them as to be able to see the half-starved inhabitants thronging the beach, to look at our beautiful vessel, as she passed the rocks and sands and barren lands of the Isle of May. If, instead of the perplexing calms which we experienced after having passed the Islands, we had a gentle breeze, we might have made the passage in less than thirty days. But I always look out for calms and squalls on the coast of Africa. If we had not experienced any calms, I should have doubted the correctness of the chronometer. What do you think of one of the American men-of-war making the passage from Porto Praya to Monrovia in *forty-eight days!*

On my arrival, I found the Legislature in session, and the honorable members engaged in discussing the subject of the sovereignty of Liberia. And I think that the manner in which the subject has been decided, is highly creditable to the wisdom and judgment of the representatives of the people. You will doubtless receive from the proper authorities, all the particulars relative to the action of the people, and of the Legislature on the subject. I will simply remark, that it was discussed in the Legislature with all that calmness and consideration which its weight and importance demanded; and that the people generally are well convinced, that they are about to assume a solemn and weighty responsibility.

The postponement of the subject for a year longer, and the preliminary steps which have been taken, and which are yet to be taken, preparatory to a formal declaration of sovereignty and independence, evince a coolness of decision, and a degree of dispassionate consideration, which are highly commendable. My fears relative to the ultimate success of the measure are less than they formerly were. And, although the little ship of state may be fearfully tossed upon the agitated waves of political excitement, yet I hope, that she may out-ride every storm—that the cross and stripes may yet be wafted by the breezes of other climes—and that the Republic of Liberia may yet take her stand among the nations of the earth, and demonstrate to the world the truth of the disputed problem—that the ability of self-government does not depend on the cutaneous hue; if, indeed, the problem has not already been demonstrated.

Mr. Smith accompanied the emigrants to Bexley, who came out in the Packet. Gov. Roberts did not think it necessary for me to go down with them, nor did I myself, especially as Mr. Benson, who was at Monrovia when we arrived, accompanied Mr. Smith in the Packet to Bassa, and as I might have found some difficulty in returning in time to attend the expedition, which we are yet daily expecting. Mr. Smith informed me by letter a few days ago, that one of the emigrants—a man named Welford Hungerford, died a few days after they were landed. I observed this man soon after we sailed from Baltimore; and I felt satisfied, that even if he should live to get across the ocean, he could not live much longer. He grew worse during the voyage, and as he died before he was attacked with fever, of course, Africa will not have to atone for causing his death. I hope you will excuse me for my plainness,

when I remark, that it is wrong for persons in such a situation to be sent to this country. It is folly for persons to come to Africa, whose constitutions are much impaired, or too feeble to enable them to enjoy tolerable good health in America.

I have had a conversation with *Willis Helm* relative to the letter which was written to a gentleman in Virginia over his signature. He does not deny having requested a gentleman to write the letter for him; but he denies having dictated the most material parts of it. According to his statement, the letter was written on board an American man-of-war by an officer of the navy, and he did not hear it read after it was finished. I am inclined to think, however, that the greater part of the letter was really dictated by him, under feelings of resentment for imaginary wrongs; and that he now regrets having been influenced by such feelings.

He evidently shows a disposition to exonerate himself from censure at the expense of his friend, who perhaps may not have had any other design in writing it, than to accommodate him. Whatever may have been the old gentleman's feelings at the time that letter was written, he now expresses himself as being perfectly satisfied in Liberia.

And I may here remark, that according to his own statement, he has received more money for his medical practice in the colony during a period of a little more than a year, than I received during a period of two years and a half, so that he is far ahead of me in collecting pay for his medical services, if not in the number of his patients.

I have visited the settlements on the St. Paul's river, and I was pleased to see that the people who came out in the "*Roanoke*" in December, 1845, and who formed the Virginia settlement, are generally getting along very comfortably and contentedly. The



settlement of Kentucky made by the "Rothschild," is a partial failure, in consequence principally of the want of industry and enterprise on the part of most of the emigrants; these people were generally dissatisfied at first, and some of them yet long for the "flesh pots of Egypt." One of them told me a few days ago, that he would rather go back to America than remain in Liberia, if any person would give him five thousand dollars:—a pretty handsome sum of money, to be sure, but not more desirable, even with freedom than a life of ignoble servitude. This is the man whom I went to see a day or two ago, in consequence of his having been severely injured by a cutlass, in a personal rencounter with one of the others.

You remember that six of the people who came out in the "Rothschild," returned to the United States in the same vessel—four of them having run away from the colony, and smuggled themselves on board the vessel at night, without the necessary passports. And you have doubtless seen a statement of the fact of one of those six having been voluntarily enslaved again; thereby preferring a state of passive obedience and servile dependence, to a life of freedom and social equality. What has become of the other five I know not. But I hope they have succeeded in finding good masters, who will make them work and treat them well. I have sometimes thought, that if some of the people who are sent to Liberia, could be bound for a term of years to some of our enterprising citizens, who would *compel them to work*, it would be decidedly advantageous to them.

I hope that the friends of colonization in the United States will not be so tenacious about having new settlements formed. It is certainly not the best policy under existing circumstances. If practicable, I would be decidedly in favor of ex-

tending the settlements further into the interior. But I am satisfied, that it is not the wisest plan to have so many distinct settlements on the border of the rivers. I think it would be decidedly better to strengthen some of the old settlements. This opinion may not appear plausible to some persons; but people in America cannot see things in the colony as we who are on the spot see them. I think that the agents of the Society in Liberia should be invested with more discretionary power, relative to the locating of immigrants.

If Gov. Roberts shall not have positive instructions in regard to the location of the next company of immigrants, I shall endeavor to prevail on him to send them to Millsburg.—That is the most interior settlement, and no immigrants have been sent to that place for several years past. I know that Millsburg is regarded by some persons as an unhealthy location; but I can see no cause why it should be more so than any other in the colony. It is true, that many of the old settlers have died, but no peculiarity about the location can be regarded as the cause of their death. Indeed, previous to the time when the people at that place so generally neglected their farms, and went into the swamps to collect timber and saw plank, the settlement of Millsburg was the most healthy in the colony. It is decidedly the most beautiful location on the St. Paul's, and the land is as good as any other in Liberia. And as it is the most interior settlement, I think it ought to be strengthened by more immigrants.

THE LIBERIA LYCEUM is still in existence—a few evenings ago an interesting question was discussed in the presence of a number of ladies. The question was "ought women to be allowed the same political privileges as men," after a spirited debate, the chairman decided the ques-

tion in favor of the ladies. I think, however, the old gentleman must have been influenced in some measure in his decision by their presence, for the other side certainly had the best of the argument.

The following are the names of the immigrants by the "Roanoke" who have died:—John Ross, aged about 18 years; Mr. Anderson from Shepherdstown, Va., aged about 30 years; Nelson Ratcliff, aged 52 years; Philip Robinson, aged 21 years; Eliza Randall, aged 30 years; Dycy Lasting, aged 50 years; Charity Ross, aged 42 years; William Burnett, aged 11 years; John Banakin, aged 9 years; Grace Deal, aged 12 years; Emily, child of Richard Burnell, aged 10 months; Etelina, child of Samuel Morton, aged 11 months; James, child of Matthew Randall, aged 11 months; Silas, child of E. Bailor, aged 9 months. Besides these, one young woman and three or four children have died, whose names I cannot at present procure. I understand that two women belonging to this company, were drowned in the St. Paul's river some months ago, I have forgotten their names, and I am too much hurried at present to be able to ascertain them.

The fatality among the immigrants by the "Rothschild" has been greater, in proportion, than among those by the "Roanoke." There were various circumstances connected with the sickness and death of some of these people, over which the medical man could have no control. Most of them were dissatisfied from the first, in addition to which, some of them were exceedingly imprudent, and several of them used ardent spirits very freely.

If the Packet should not return in time, I shall probably send Mr. Smith to the United States by some other conveyance, if an opportunity should be afforded, as it will be necessary for

him to arrive by the first of August if possible, so as to enter the medical institution at the beginning of the course of lectures.

There are now four American vessels in our harbor—the "Medonna" and the "Margaret Ann" from New York; the "Reaper" from Salem; and the "Liberia Packet," from Baltimore. A steamer from Liverpool paid us a visit a few days ago—the first merchant steamer which has ever been in our harbor.

I was pleased to find that the condition of the liberated slaves by the "Pons" (those who are now living) is better than I expected. They have generally abandoned their theivish practices, and also the practice of running away. They are now peaceable and orderly, and are very little trouble to the colonists. On the contrary, they have turned out to be a valuable acquisition to the colony, and their own condition is unquestionably vastly superior to what it was before they were taken from their country: or to what it would have been if they had been taken to Brazil. From the appearance of those whom I have seen, I am induced to believe, that they have been well treated. Most of those who ran away during the first few months after their arrival, returned to their homes, being convinced that they could fare much better in the colonial settlements than in the "bush." Many of them have made remarkable progress in acquiring a knowledge of the English language and the habits of civilization.

My health continues pretty good. I have had two or three slight touches of fever since my arrival, to prevent me from forgetting that I am again in Africa.

Yours truly,

J. W. LUGENBEEL.

Rev. W. McLAIN,

Secretary.

Am. Col. Society.

[For the African Repository.]

## Letter from a Georgian.

WELLINGTON, NIGH ATHENS, GA.,  
 March, 1847.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—Upon reading the 30th annual report of the American Colonization Society, I discovered that the greatest drawback to colonization in both free and slave regions this side of the Atlantic, was the unwillingness and foreboding of our colored people to undertaking the voyage. They seem mostly predetermined here to remain, though in obscurity and manifest contempt from another and self-styled superior race; and it is with difficulty your society agents can persuade them to emigrate. The indefatigable exertions also of abolitionists—determined on *universality*, and until, or unless that be admitted or nothing—have prevented Liberia from receiving the resources and auxiliary progress of well disposed men—and many live and die under this vaunting but inefficacious auspices, without the least hope of experiencing the fulfilment of their bright hopes or most glorious dreams.

A great deal I think may, however, be accounted from the temperament and constitution of the African race generally. In the 69th page, first column, report the 30th as printed in No. 3, vol. 23, the picture of a Liberian in vain, in Connecticut, persuading his kindred to emigrate with him, is a most striking exemplification of the *Negro passion*. Before Liberia be well settled and inviting, you will find this so. The abolitionists, the inveterate slaveites, and all the rabid enemies of colonization of whatever name, section or color, find their most powerful assistance in this always well demarked principle of the African race.

This unfortunate people, either illiterate or literate, are always most prone to *stay where they have been raised*, if left to their volition.

The idea of distant Republics, freedom, privileges, wealth, immunities and golden promises, or *Independence*, fall on their ears like the tales of Oriental Aladdin's Lamp upon ours. Beautiful for contemplation, they are admired, but *none* desire to tarnish this ideal glory with the vulgar touch of reality. All shrink from venturing upon an experiment almost too transcendent for their humble aspirations!

Many a slave always objects to being sold by a master to another.—Even bad masters sometimes, *and often too*, find it hard to please a negro, by transferring him to a good and benevolent owner, though his merciful qualities be long understood! Many a servant would cling to old associations in preference to forming new; and many prefer a homestead among strangers, where they have been raised, to being conveyed away to any distant place where their very parents reside!!!

This is obvious to all slave owners. From such a data, we are warranted in supposing the most strenuous opposition colonization meets with, is to be found in the *innate love of the African race for a present place of residence*, and their extreme unwillingness to emigrate to new and untried abodes, though promissory of elevation.

With respect,

Your truly obed't servant,

J. J. FLOURNOY.

Rev. WM. McLAIN.



## The Baltimore Conference on Colonization.

THE committee to whom was referred the communication of Rev. C. A. Davis, agent of the American Colonization Society, for the State of Virginia, beg leave to submit the following report:

*1st. Resolved*, By the Baltimore Annual Conference, in conference assembled, that we highly approve of the objects of the American Colonization Society; and that we will aid in furthering its interests by taking up collections where convenient, on or about the 4th of July, in aid of its funds, and that we will afford all convenient facilities to its authorized agents who may come among us in the prosecution of their work.

And whereas, the managers of the Maryland Colonization Society, have solicited the services of the Rev. Wm. Evans, as an agent for said State, therefore—

*2d. Resolved*, That the superintendent be respectfully requested to appoint him to said agency.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN DAVIS,  
R. CADDEN,  
JNO. BOWEN.

True extract from the journals of the Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

S. A. ROSZEL,  
*Sec'y of Balto. An. Con.*

[From the Maryland Colonization Journal.]

## Dr. Alexander on African Colonization.

MANY months have elapsed since the issue of this work from the press; but it has not been our good fortune to find a copy on sale or loan, until we met with it in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Pinney, at the late annual meeting of the American Colonization Society at Washington, who seemed to be acting a very friendly part towards the publishers and proprietors, in offering it to the friends of the cause there present. We have repeatedly enquired for the work, in vain, at the principal book stores of this city, and cannot imagine the reason of its not having been offered here.

It is unnecessary to say, that we have perused this volume of 600 pages, upon a subject which has become, to us, the "all of life," with the deepest interest, and probably with feelings experienced by few others. In following the thread of the narrative, down to the time of

our earliest connexion with the colonies in 1831, we are brought into contact with old friends, and re-pass through scenes, dimly seen through a long vista of years of change and turmoil, and only now made clear to memory through the assistance of the written page.—

We fancy ourselves again traversing the shrubby, rocky streets of Cape Messurado on our old sorry-looking donkey, with pockets stuffed with physic and condiments—or winding through the tortuous Stockton creek, hedged in by the impenetrable mangrove, cheered only by the monotonous chorus of the Kroomen, to go through the "Long Houses" of the new emigrants at Caldwell. We again hear the details of the sufferings, trials, hardships, and the battles for freedom and existence by the pioneers in this great effort, from some patriarch of the "Old Ship Elizabeth"—or listen to the

pathetic and tearful narrative of private sorrows and griefs. We seem again to pass through all the scenes of that most eventful period of the colony—the political struggles, the Bromley war—the rapidly extending commerce—the influx of some six hundred new emigrants—and the distressing consequences attendant upon so injudicious a measure.

Independent of such reminiscences of the past, the perusal of this work has excited in us new zeal and interest in the cause and the colonies. This embodying of all the great and leading facts, forming the history of the colony; this marshalling of the hosts of the great and good of our nation, who have from first to last given in their adherence to the plan of Colonization, and the testimony of almost numberless disinterested eye-witnesses of unimpeachable integrity, who have declared to the world their conviction of the full success of this great experiment, has strengthened our hearts and increased our faith. It has expelled all doubt, and wrought in us the deep conviction, that this great work must prosper—must be triumphantly successful.

If, therefore, this bare recapitulation of events long since familiar to us—this refreshing the memory with scenes of which we once felt ourselves to be a part—has served to stimulate *our* zeal in this cause, and to strengthen *our* confidence in its success—how powerful must be its influence upon those heretofore uninterested, or imperfectly acquainted with the subject of which it treats—or who have acquired a prejudice against it from the libelous publications of the Abolitionists, or the sneers and imbecile arguments of those who view the African as naturally inferior to all other varieties of the human race?

Under the firm belief that its can-

did perusal will produce, in every unprejudiced mind, a full conviction of the charity—of the philanthropy—of the glory and of the *practicability* of this great, but much abused scheme of “African Colonization,” we most earnestly urge it upon the attention of our readers; upon those who believe; upon the interested and indifferent; upon those who believe the African to be a man or a monkey—being fully confident, that no one can finish the work, without a conviction that the colored man is susceptible of the highest mental improvement, and that Africa will yet become a land of Religion, Liberty and Law.

Having said thus much of this work, in general terms, we may be permitted to speak more particularly, not only of its merits, but what we conceive to be its defects, disclaiming, however, the assumption of the office or attitude of a critic, or presuming to speak of it as a literary production, trusting that it will be considered the legitimate business of the Editor of a Colonization journal—one too, who from a long residence in the colonies, feels the deepest interest in their welfare—to express his opinions upon a subject so important as their “History.”

One of the greatest benefits resulting from the publication of this work—greater, because it affects those who read it, and those who read it not—is, that Dr. Alexander has given it the sanction of his name—that he has voluntarily enrolled himself as the Historian of “African Colonization.” This act, too, derives still greater importance from the fact, that by it, the author has assumed entirely different ground from a majority of those with whom he is united by religious faith, and intimately associated in various charitable and religious institutions.



It will be recollected by most of those interested in such matters, that some four years since, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at one of its annual meetings, in consequence of some disagreement between their Missionary at Cape Palmas, the Rev. J. L. Wilson, and the Governor of the Colony, adopted and published a Report, sanctioned by the name of a high judicial functionary of the State of New York, the Hon. Reuben Walworth, reflecting unmerited censure upon the character of that colony and its officers, and upon the policy of the Maryland State Colonization Society; embodying statements, since proved to be incorrect, and deducing inferences from other data, wholly unwarrantable. The effect of this Report, and the action of the American Board thereon, was immediately felt, not only by the Maryland, but by the American Colonization Societies, and to such an extent, that the officers of the latter, in the northern States, were obliged to come out and declare themselves in no way connected with the Maryland State Colonization Society, or responsible for its acts. The promulgation of this Report, as far as the influence of the American Board extended, embracing the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, was in fact paramount to a Papal Interdict in the Catholic church; and from that day to this, the Maryland State Colonization Society has not received one dollar from any church of that denomination in the State of Maryland.—The effect of the movement was,

not only to cripple the Society in its operations—to sow distrust among its friends of all religious denominations—but to comfort and succor the enemy, the abolitionists, who most greedily seized upon the Report as confirmatory of their vile slanders of the colonists, and their misrepresentations of the policy and objects of the Colonization Societies.

Not long after the promulgation of this report, there appeared in the "Biblical Repertory," a review of "Mr. Kennedy's Report on African Colonization," in the House of Representatives, said to be from the pen of Dr. Alexander, containing a most able exposition of the system, completely vindicating the societies and colonies from all objections and aspersions of their enemies, open or concealed, declaring the "*enterprise*," to use his own words, "*to be the most important commenced in any part of the world since we began life; and that the success which has attended it, considering the feebleness of the means and the scantiness of the resources of the society, is one of the most extraordinary events in the history of the world.*" Soon followed the annunciation of the work now before us, for which he is entitled to the thanks of every true friend of Africa, and to the gratitude of every citizen of Liberia: not only that he has thus espoused that cause, which alone promises relief to the oppressed Africa-American, but rescued from unmerited detraction those who have left home, kindred and birth-place, for an asylum in a foreign and barbarous land.

Gov. Roberts' Message.

To the Honorable,  
the Members of the Legislature:

GENTLEMEN:—Another year is come around; and it is with peculiar satisfaction I meet the ninth ses-

sion of the Legislature of Liberia.—Coming from all parts of the Commonwealth, at this critical and interesting period, it is presumed, gentlemen, that you are fully pos-

sessed of the sentiments and wishes of your constituents ; and are prepared to act promptly in all questions which may be submitted to your consideration ; and no doubt will be enabled to give such a direction to public affairs as the wisdom and patriotism of your constituents will approve and support.

On our present meeting, it is my first duty to invite your attention to the providential favors which these colonies have experienced during the past year, in the unusual degree of health dispensed to the inhabitants, in the rich abundance with which the earth has rewarded the labors of the husbandman, and in the success which has attended the efforts of our merchants and traders.

In the successful cultivation of other branches of industry, and in the progress of general improvement, everywhere manifest, favorable to the national prosperity, there is just occasion also for our mutual congratulations and thankfulness.

I have the satisfaction of informing you that the market-house in this town has been completed : and in conformity with the sixth section of an act entitled " An act appropriating money for building a market-house in the town of Monrovia," which provides, " That when said market-house shall have been completed, it shall be leased to the corporation of Monrovia, for an annual rent, to be agreed upon by persons appointed by the Governor and the corporation for that purpose," — Messrs. James Brown and H. Teage were appointed on the part of the Commonwealth, and Messrs. D. B. Brown and James B. McGill on the part of the corporation. I lay before you the award of those gentlemen and the agreement of the corporate authorities. By the latter you will perceive that the corporation autho-

rities bind themselves to pay into the Treasury of the Commonwealth annually, certain sums, until the amount expended in erecting the building.

The report of the Canal Commissioners has not yet been received. — I understand, however, it is in a forward state of preparation, and will be laid before you at an early day.

Accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the last year, will, as usual, be laid before you. I am happy to be able to inform you that the state of our finances continues to fulfil our expectations. Full returns of officers in the counties of Grand Bassa and Sinoe, have not yet been received. It is ascertained, however, that the revenue received during the last year exceeds by a small amount that of the preceding ; and it may reasonably be expected, that the receipts of the ensuing year, with the sum now in the Treasury, will be sufficient to defray the current demand of the year, and meet any expense which may be incurred, should the Legislature adopt measures to that effect in carrying out the wishes of the people in regard to forming a new government.

With respect to the subject of Independence I have the honor to inform you, that in compliance with the desire of the Legislature as expressed in their resolution of the 15th of July last, requesting the Executive to call the attention of the people of these Colonies to certain recommendations expressed in a set of resolutions, adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, at their annual meeting in January last, touching the independence of Liberia, I issued a proclamation, expressive of the desire of the Legislature, and calling on the people of this Commonwealth, to determine, through the ballot-box, what disposition

should be made of the resolutions, or whether the recommendation therein submitted should be adopted or not. I lay before you the result of the vote taken on the question, in all the towns and villages of the Commonwealth, on the 27th day of November last.

You will perceive that the people by a small majority, however, have decided in favor of adopting the suggestions of the Board of Directors, in regard to a change of our relations with the Society: and have expressed a desire that a Convention be called to draft a constitution for the new government, and that measures be adopted to carry the same into effect as soon as practicable.

I regret exceedingly to find by official returns, that no more than two-thirds of the legal voters of the Commonwealth attended the polls to record their opinion respecting this highly important question.

Why so many of our fellow citizens absented themselves, and declined giving a public expression of their sentiments respecting the question submitted to their consideration, is unknown to me. It is, nevertheless, a question of vital importance to the people of Liberia. One that should interest, deeply interest, every citizen of this Commonwealth.

Since this question was first mooted, I have been watching with much concern, the progress of public opinion in regard to it: and have frequently been astonished at the instability of the public mind and the manifest inconsistency of some of the leading men of our community.

In tracing the cause of this fickleness, I have been pained to find that many of our less informed fellow citizens, have been egregiously deceived in regard to the purport of a communication addressed to

the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, by a committee of the Legislature of 1845, respecting the light in which the sovereignty of these colonies is held by the government of Great Britain.

It is asserted, I understand, that the Legislature of 1845, not having the authority of the people for the purpose, of course, communicated with the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, informing them it was the wish of the people of these colonies, that their political relations with the Society should be immediately changed; and that Liberia be declared an Independent State. And that the Legislature contemplated forming a new government without asking the consent of the people.

As preposterous and foolish, to say the least of them, as these accusations are, they have had a baneful effect upon the minds of some of our people. And, I have no doubt, in a great degree, prevented that unanimity of action so desirable on the adoption of any great and important measure.

I believe it was not the intention of the members of that Legislature to convey the idea by their communication to the Board of Directors, that a vote of the people had been taken on the question of independence, and that they were recommending the measure on their authority.— And how any rational man could entertain the idea, that the Legislature contemplated changing the relations of these colonies, and forming a new government without the authority of the people, I cannot conceive. I venture to assert, that not a single member of that Legislature, would tolerate the doctrine that the inhabitants at large should not exercise that right, a right which God has given them in common



with all men, to judge whether it be consistent with their interests or not to change their political relations, or to accept or reject a constitution, framed for the state of which they are members.

This is the birthright of every citizen to whatever state he may belong. There he is, or ought to be, by indefeasible right, a co-legislator with all the other members of that community. And while it is acknowledged that every individual in a community is not qualified for assisting in the framing of a constitution; it is equally evident that share of common sense, which the Almighty has so bountifully distributed among mankind in general, is sufficient to quicken every one's feelings, and enable him to judge rightly what degree of safety, and what advantages he is likely to enjoy, or be deprived of, under any constitution proposed to him.

The diversity of opinions and judgments which always takes place on a new measure, the unaccountable proneness of some men to censure every thing not their own, and fretfulness of others at not being consulted on all public matters, are every-day occurrences in long established, intelligent, and well regulated communities; therefore are not so wonderful in Liberia.

I presume, gentlemen, that you will dispose of this question of independence according to the wishes of the people as expressed by the vote of the 27th of November last.—If so, you will, of course, determine upon the number of which the Convention for framing a new Constitution shall be composed, the manner in which they shall be elected, the time of their meeting, &c. &c.

I am aware that objections are urged against this course. It is insisted, on the grounds that no more than two-thirds of the male inhabi-

tants attended the polls to signify their wishes with respect to the question, and that the majority in favor of the measure being so small that the Legislature should decline calling a Convention, or adopting further measures in the premises.

For my own part, I can see but one course for the Legislature to pursue. With respect to those of our fellow citizens, who declined attending the polls, I have only to remind you, that no person was excluded from voting but those who chose to exclude themselves; and in that case, I hold, that they either show themselves unworthy of the privileges of a citizen, or confiding in the judgment of others, signified their consent to the measure proposed. And while it is deeply to be regretted that greater unanimity does not exist with respect to this important question, we can but remember the indisputable maxim, "The will of the people is the law of the land," and that government is, or ought to be, instituted for their benefit; and of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best, which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and that when any government, should be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, the majority, however small that majority may be, has an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right, to reform, alter or abolish it, in such a manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal. Such changes, however, are always dangerous, and should never be made, except under the firm conviction, that they are necessary for the benefit, protection and security of the people in general.

Now, gentlemen, this perplexing question is in your hands, and as the representatives and guardians of the rights and interests of the people of

these colonies, I beg to remind you of the great responsibility which rests upon you. It is your duty to watch cautiously over every occurrence that can possibly tend to obstruct the fair channel of our happiness. And I am fully persuaded that the prosperity and happiness of the people of these colonies depend, under God, on the firm union of their inhabitants. Generations yet to come may owe their freedom and happiness to the result of your deliberations on the important subject now submitted to your consideration. A single false step at this critical crisis may ruin, irreparably ruin, our hopes of future success. Upon you then depends the political happiness or wretchedness of the people of Liberia. May I therefore entreat you to weigh and consider well the part you are called to act in this important matter, and that you will not suffer yourselves to be betrayed into any feelings unbecoming the dignity of your station, and the present critical situation of our affairs. Let us substitute calmness for passion, confidence for suspicion, and no doubt we shall soon agree as to the course proper to be pursued on this occasion of your meeting.

In assuming the whole responsibility of conducting the affairs of this government, it is impossible to conceal from ourselves or the world the many disadvantages and embarrassments, we must necessarily labor under for some years. The numerical strength of the colony is comparatively small, nor can we boast of great intelligence, experience or wealth. Indeed when these are considered, it is no matter of surprise that so many of our fellow citizens are exceedingly fearful as to the results of this new organization. The question, "Has the time arrived for his important change," naturally forces itself on the mind of every reflecting citizen.

A majority of the people, however, have decided in the affirmative, which opinion is sustained by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society. In their opinion it is the only course that will or can relieve us from the embarrassments we labor under, with respect to the encroachments of foreigners, and the objections urged by Great Britain in regard to our sovereignty.

I sincerely hope, and believe, gentlemen, that you will be sustained by your fellow citizens in whatever measures you may adopt respecting this question, and that the reputation of the people of Liberia, for order and good government, will not be diminished by our future conduct, that there will be no discord among us, that all differences of small moment will be entirely laid aside, and that the only strife among citizens will be who shall do most to serve and to save an oppressed and injured race.

I feel particular satisfaction in being able to announce to you, that nothing has occurred during the past year to disturb the friendly relations subsisting between this government and the surrounding native tribes. Indeed, our amity with them appears to have been more firmly established. I am also happy to state, that the continued efforts to introduce among them the Christian religion, and habits of civilization, have not been without success. They are unquestionably becoming every year more and more sensible of the superiority of civilized life over the barbarous customs of their fathers; and many of them are beginning to engage pretty extensively in the pursuits of agriculture and household manufacture. They are becoming convinced of the precarious resources of the slave trade, and of the sufferings to which many of them are frequently reduced by the wars and wants of



savage life, and find it to their interest to dispose of their territories to this government, ceding it to the political control and jurisdiction over all persons and property therein; incorporating themselves with us, forming an integral part of this Commonwealth.

Since the last annual meeting of this Legislature, another important acquisition of territory has been made. In February last, the natives occupying the lands lying between Blue Barra and Grand Cess, the territory of Settra Kroo, comprising about six miles of sea coast excepted, ceded to this government, including the rights of sovereignty, their entire territories: also two tribes farther south, occupying the territory known as Tassoo and Bassoo Bay; reserving for their members only what is sufficient to maintain them in an agricultural way. A few days ago, General Lewis, commissioned on the part of this government, succeeded in purchasing about fifteen miles of sea coast, comprising portions of the territories of Manna, Curroo and Timboo.

It is understood, in each case, that we shall extend to them our patronage and protection: that we will establish trading factories among them, furnishing them necessaries at moderate prices, in exchange for their commodities, and protect them against the incursions of their marauding neighbors.

Other tribes occupying intermediate points have agreed to transfer their territories to this government, and we are only awaiting the arrival of funds, daily expected, to perfect our negotiations. If not interrupted by foreigners, and means are placed at our command, I shall succeed in extinguishing the native title to all the land lying between the extreme points of colonial jurisdiction.

Gentlemen, I lay before you a com-

munication, dated December 18th, 1846, addressed to me by Captain Murray, of her Majesty's Sloop Favorite, in which he asked permission to construct a chart of the line of coast occupied by the Liberians, in which to mark the territories now in their possession, and that I would attach my signature to the same, and allow him to examine the title deeds by which we held the territories in question.

He has also been pleased to say, "that England recognizes our right to these territories, if legally purchased from the rightful owners of the soil," regarding the Liberians however "only in the light of a society or private company of traders; and in no case can she admit the exercise of sovereign rights, in which may be included the payment of custom dues. And that common international law does not allow the claim to territory which may have been only partially purchased, and occupied in detached portions. And that, in the event of this government purchasing the land surrounding sites of factories in which British subjects have acquired rights of property, it will be his duty to disallow the legality of such a purchase, if made over the heads of such British subjects, and obtained without their consent."

Of course, no objections were interposed in regard to the construction of a chart. I did, however, as Captain Murray could not tell me for what purpose it was required, decline placing my signature to the chart.

The light in which England regards the sovereignty of these colonies is not new to you. Captain Murray is only reiterating what has been said by British naval officers on that subject several years ago.

We are told that England regards the Liberians only "in the light of

a society or private company of traders or settlers," without any national rights or privileges. Then, fellow citizens, if the principles advanced by British officers with respect to the sovereignty of Liberia be correct, after all our toil, we are still without a country or home; outcasts upon the world, hunted and persecuted in every clime.

I, however, doubt the correctness of the position assumed by British officers in regard to this subject.

The frailty of human nature, the wants of individuals, and the numerous circumstances which surround them through the course of life; have in all ages, and in every country, impelled men to form societies and establish governments.

The people of these colonies, impelled by circumstances over which they had no control, left their native land to seek on these shores a residence for civil and political freedom. At the expense of their blood, at the hazard of their lives, without the least charge to the country from which they removed; by unceasing labor, and an unconquerable spirit, they have effected settlements and established governments, with Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers, in the distant and inhospitable wilds of Africa.

After all this, will Great Britain, with all her magnanimity and philanthropy towards the African race, deny us the right to exercise these powers? I trow not. Generous minds contemplating with pleasure the increasing happiness of human society, must feel delight in beholding the increasing prosperity of these colonies.

While it is obvious that we should and will respect the prior rights of property, such as sites of factories, acquired by British subjects, within our jurisdiction, we cannot concede the point, that it is at all necessary

for us to obtain the concurrence of British subjects in purchasing the lands owned by the natives, surrounding sites of factories owned by such British subjects.

In no instance to my knowledge, have such factories set up any claim to the sovereignty of the country.— On the contrary, they conform to the rules and usages of the country, as established by the natives, and in no case would they attempt to abrogate any of them.

I maintain that the natives have the same right to those lands, and their kings to the sovereignty of them, as any native or king in Europe can have to the lands or sovereignty of such respective country.— And if the kings, with the consent and concurrence of their subjects, are disposed, and will cede to this government their territories with the sovereignty of them, incorporating themselves with us, as the Texans have done with the people of the United States, I ask, what has any British subject or any other person or nation to do with it?

In our case it appears that common international law does not allow the claim to territory which may have been only partially purchased, and occupied in detached portions; but in the case of British subjects, their claim must be allowed and their rights respected: rather one sided this, and not easily reconciled.

Gentlemen, be not discouraged. Liberia is destined by the Almighty to be the free and quiet habitation of thousands, perhaps millions in future; and a land for the oppressed to flee to, and be happy. Innumerable apparent causes, and doubtless innumerable others which are unseen to us, are at work to hasten great events; and every day seems pregnant with something new and important. And may we not hope, as in time past, so in time to come, these colonies will

make swifter progress in their advances to maturity than any which have heretofore existed.

Hitherto their growth has astonished their enemies, and has surpassed the sanguine predictions even of their enthusiastic friends. Their advances continue with an increasing rapidity, and according to the course of human affairs, if not retarded by foreign interference, they will soon be the subject of applause and admiration among the nations of the world; and will wipe from our race the foul imputation, "that colored men are incapable of self government."

Gentlemen, notwithstanding the many embarrassments and difficulties we have to encounter, consequent upon settling any new country, we have much to encourage us. Possessed of a continent so rich and extensive that the enterprising genius of Europe or America has not been able to explore its boundaries, nor fathom the depths of its fertility, nor penetrate the treasures of its exhaustless mines.

Every circumstance favorable to mankind, concur to facilitate the independence and happiness of these colonies. Here the human mind, untrammelled by unequal laws, and unawed by unjust prejudices, will

expand with new wings, and gathering strength with its flight, will feel its native force, and reach the summit of human perfection.

I believe that the Almighty intends through the instrumentality of those colonies to restore to Africa her long-lost glory. Here it is probable, science and virtue will attain their highest perfection, society shine in the most beautiful and lovely form, and produce the highest felicity. As virtue alone, however, can ensure real happiness and solid glory, this must be a prevailing principle before society can attain them. The history of mankind testifies through all ages and periods, the inseparable connection between virtue and happiness; and in proportion to its prevalence has been the prosperity of every state or nation.

Such circumstances call with a peculiar importunity, not less for a disposition to unite in all those measures in which the honor, safety, and prosperity of our country depend, than for all the exertions of wisdom and firmness.

In all such measures, gentlemen, you may rely on my hearty concurrence and co-operation.

J. J. ROBERTS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 4, 1847.

[From the Liberia Herald.]

#### Legislation in Liberia.

THE Colonial Legislature assembled pursuant to law on Monday the 4th inst. The first business in the order of proceeding was the swearing of the members, to do faithfully and conscientiously the work of legislators, and to discharge such other duties as the time and circumstances might demand. It occurs to us, that it will not be out of place to ask, while on this subject, whether by be-

coming a representative a man disfranchises himself—and assumes *de facto* the obligation to pocket his conscience, to close his eyes against evidence, and his mind against argument, and to vote only as bidden by those who honored him with their suffrage. If this be the duty which the honor imposes, Heaven save us from both. If we can serve a people only on the condition that we re-



sign the dignity and the privileges of a man, *we* shall never aspire to the high honor of serving them. To demand such a surrender is as insolent in the *sovereign people*, as it is absurd in the *people's servant* to submit to it. It is in effect to say, there is a better way to arrive at truth than argument and discussions, and that he who has heard only one side of a question, is as well prepared to decide upon it as he who has weighed carefully the arguments on both.—These thoughts have been suggested by the very frequent use by members of our legislature of such phrases as “the people at — think that, and your constituents wish the other, and therefore, we must oppose this measure and support its opposite.”

Directly after the members were qualified by swearing to do their duty, the Governor's message was read. This document we have spread before our readers in this number of our paper. It is an interesting paper, and contains a correct and succinct statement of the state of the question of Liberia Independence. The legislature then adjourned to meet the following day.

The question of independence was the all absorbing theme. The members of the lower counties at once threw themselves to their old position, supported by an auxiliary from Sinoe, and in their maneuvers to keep the enemy without their entrenchment, displayed considerable skill in parliamentary tactics. They were, however, opposed by formidable battalions of truth and reason.

On the fourth day of the session the house went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Weaver in the chair. After a little half in earnest and half in play skirmishing, in which the parties were evidently rousing their energies for a desperate struggle, Governor Roberts advanced to close quarters, in the introduction of a

resolution to determine whether the wishes of the people as expressed in the late vote should be complied with. This more than Corsican maneuver brought the opponents of a new organization to a dead stand. A more effectual and better timed resolution could not possibly have been brought forward. It was better than whole tomes of argument, inasmuch as a vote in the negative would have arrayed the voter in direct opposition to the wishes of a majority of the whole people solemnly and decidedly expressed, upon a question long and anxiously agitated from one end to the other of the colony.—Having mentioned this, our readers will not require to be told that the matter is settled. A resolution was passed ordering an election on the 17th proximo, for delegates to meet in convention in July next, for the purpose of framing a constitution.—These resolutions, or rather this act, we insert below.

There was very little other business done. The independence question had absorbed all attention, and kept the minds of all within and without the house, wound up to their highest tension; so that matter accomplished, all other affairs appeared unimportant. In our humble opinion there were other matters growing out of the independence act, which were eminently entitled to the immediate attention of the legislature, but which they for some reason, which has not transpired, omitted to attend to. These may be the subject of future remark.

—  
**AN ACT** *making provisions for a convention.*

WHEREAS the people of this Commonwealth did on the 27th day of October, 1846, solemnly determine by vote that there shall be a convention held for the purpose of forming



a constitution for the government of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

SEC. 1. *Therefore—Be it enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,*—That there be a convention held conformably with the wishes of the people, as expressed by their votes taken October 27th, 1846.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,*—That the convention shall consist of eleven delegates, and shall be appointed in the following manner: for the county of Monrovia six delegates shall be appointed, for the county of Grand Bassa four delegates shall be appointed, and for the county of Sinoe there shall be one delegate appointed.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,*—That the third Tuesday in February next shall be set apart for the purpose of electing delegates to said convention, and the polls shall be opened in the different settlements in the counties of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe, and be conducted in the same manner and form as annual elections for Councillors are conducted, and the Judges of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas, as the February term of 1847, shall appoint judges and clerks for the said election, and said judges and clerks shall be entitled to the same pay as judges and clerks for the annual election of Councillors, and the returns of said election shall be made to the *Colonial Secretary*, and the delegates elected shall be notified in the same manner as the members of the Legislative Council.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,*—that the persons who may be elected to said convention, shall meet in the Town of Monrovia on the first Monday in July, 1847, and shall be entitled to the same pay per day, including travelling expenses when in the service of the Commonwealth,

as is paid the members of the Legislative Council.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted,*—That the convention be authorized to appoint its own officers and fix their pay to be drawn by an order from the Commonwealth Treasury in the usual manner of disbursing Commonwealth moneys, but in no case shall such pay exceed the amount paid such officers belonging to the Legislature.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted,*—That they shall lay the same before the Governor as early after their adjournment as possible, and the Governor shall cause five hundred copies of the draft of the Constitution to be printed, and the same be laid before the people as early as possible, and the people in their respective towns shall decide by solemn vote on the last Monday of September, 1847, whether the draft of the constitution so submitted shall be adopted or not: those voting in the affirmative shall express on their tickets, yea; those voting in the negative shall express on their tickets nay.—The Polls shall be conducted as aforesaid,—and the sheriff of the different counties shall immediately transmit the result of said election to the Governor, and should there be a majority of votes in favor of adopting the constitution, the Governor shall immediately on ascertaining the fact declare the same by proclamation to be the law of the land.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,*—That in case there be a majority for rejecting the constitution, the Governor as soon as he is assured of the fact shall order the *Colonial Secretary* to give immediate notice to the delegates to meet again in convention, who shall proceed to prepare another draft or make such amendments as will best suit the wishes of the people: and the convention shall be entitled to the rights as are provided by law. The

new draft shall be laid before the people as aforesaid for their adoption or rejection, and should it be rejected the second time, the Gover-

nor shall pursue the same course to have it amended and laid before the people as above, and so on until it shall be adopted.

### Our Spring Expedition.

WE have been compelled to postpone the sailing of the emigrants who expected to have left about this time. We have done it most reluctantly, but under circumstances which we could not avoid. And when our friends understand the facts in the case, they will doubtless approve of our decision.

During the last session of CONGRESS an ACT was passed, "*to regulate the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels.*" Mr. Secretary WALKER, in calling the attention of collectors to this *Act*, has put a *forced* construction, as we believe, on a part of it. That our readers may have a clear view of the case, we insert here, both the act and the Secretary's circular :

#### CIRCULAR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
March 17, 1847.

The particular attention of the officers of the customs is called to the provisions of an act entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels," approved 22d February, 1847; and also to the act to amend the aforesaid act, approved 2d March, 1847, both of which acts are hereunto annexed.

It will be perceived that, by the amendatory act of the 2d instant, the regulations prescribed in the law of the 22d February last, take effect and go into operation from and after the 31st day of May next, in regard to all vessels arriving from ports on this side of the Capes of Good Hope and Horn, and in regard to vessels arriving from places beyond said capes, on and after the 30th day of October next ensuing. The 2d section of this act also repeals so much of the act of February last, "as authorizes shippers to estimate two children of eight years of age and under as one passenger in the assignment of room" in the vessel.

It is not conceived that the provisions of the aforesaid acts repeal or conflict with those of the act "regulating passenger ships and vessels," approved 2d March, 1819. Hence the limitation of the num-

ber of passengers to *two* for every five tons of the vessel according to custom-house measurement, also the regulations in regard to the requisite supply of water, provisions, &c., and the penalties prescribed are still in full operation.

It is strictly enjoined upon the officers of the customs to have all vessels about to depart for foreign ports, or arriving therefrom with passengers, carefully examined to see that the number of passengers does not exceed the limit fixed by law, and that the space prescribed in the first section of the act of 22d February last, for the accommodation of each passenger has been allotted, and also to ascertain that due compliance is had with the provisions of the third section regulating the construction and dimensions of the *berths*. The number of tiers of berths is limited by the act to *two*, with an interval between the floor and the deck or platform of at least six inches. Each berth is required to be "at least six feet in length and at least eighteen inches in width for each passenger." A separate berth of these dimensions must be provided for each passenger, and it cannot be permitted to increase said dimensions with a view to accommodate more than one person, as the law clearly contemplates each berth to be assigned to a single passenger. Besides, it is to be distinctly understood, that the berths are not to interfere or encroach upon the space allotted by the first section of the act to each passenger, which is to be of the prescribed number of *clear* superficial feet of deck, according to the circumstances mentioned in the law.

Children of eight years of age and under are each to be considered and computed a single passenger.

The penalties imposed by the 1st, 2d, and 3d sections of the act must be rigidly enforced in all cases of a violation of the same.

R. J. WALKER,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

*AN ACT to regulate the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels.*

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if the master of any vessel, owned in whole or in part by a citizen of the*

United States of America, or by a citizen of any foreign country, shall take on board such vessel, at any foreign port or place, a greater number of passengers than in the following proportion to the space occupied by them and appropriated for their use, and unoccupied by stores or other goods, not being the personal luggage of such passenger, that is to say, on the lower deck or platform, one passenger for every fourteen clear superficial feet of deck, if such vessel is not to pass within the tropics during such voyage; but if such vessel is to pass within the tropics during such voyage, then one passenger for every twenty such clear superficial feet of deck, and on the orlop deck, (if any,) one passenger for every thirty such superficial feet in all cases, with intent to bring such passengers to the United States of America, and shall leave such port or place with the same, and bring the same, or any number thereof, within the jurisdiction of the United States aforesaid, or if any such master of a vessel shall take on board of his vessel at any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States aforesaid, any greater number of passengers than the proportions aforesaid admit, with intent to carry the same to any foreign port or place, every such master shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof before any circuit or district court of the United States aforesaid, for each passenger taken on board beyond the above proportions, be fined in the sum of fifty dollars, and may also be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one year: *Provided*, That this act shall not be construed to permit any ship or vessel to carry more than two passengers to five tons of such ship or vessel.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if the passengers so taken on board of such vessel, and brought into or transported from the United States aforesaid, shall exceed the number limited by the last section to the number of twenty in the whole, such vessel shall be forfeited to the United States aforesaid, and be prosecuted and distributed as forfeitures are, under the act to regulate duties on imports and tonnage.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if any such vessel as aforesaid shall have more than two tiers of berths, or in case, in such vessel, the interval between the floor and the deck or platform beneath shall not be at least six inches, and the berths well constructed, or in case the dimensions of such berths shall not be at least six feet in length, and at least eighteen inches in width, for each passenger as aforesaid, then the master of said vessel, and the owners thereof, severally, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for each and

every passenger on board of said vessel on such voyage, to be recovered by the United States as aforesaid, in any circuit or district court of the United States where such vessel may arrive, or from which she sails.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That, for the purposes of this act, it shall in all cases be computed that two children, each being under the age of eight years, shall be equal to one passenger, and that children under the age of one year shall not be included in the computation of the number of passengers.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the amount of the several penalties imposed by this act shall be liens on the vessel or vessels violating its provisions; and such vessel may be libelled and sold therefor in the district court of the United States aforesaid in which such vessel shall arrive.

Approved, February 22, 1847.

*AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels," and to determine the time when said act shall take effect.*

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the act to regulate the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels, approved the twenty-second day of February, eighteen hundred and forty-seven, shall, in regard to all vessels arriving from ports on this side of the Capes of Good Hope and Horn, take effect and be in force from and after the thirty-first day of May next ensuing; and in regard to all vessels arriving from places beyond said capes, on and after the thirtieth day of October next ensuing.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of said act as authorizes shippers to estimate two children of eight years of age and under, as one passenger, in the assignment of room, is hereby repealed.

Approved, March, 2, 1847.

From this act it will be seen that no distinction is made between *merchant* vessels and *packets*, or vessels built expressly to carry passengers. The first section says, "That if the master of *any* vessel," &c. Of course the *LIBERIA PACKET* is subjected to the restrictions of this *act*.

Again, it will be perceived that vessels passing within the tropics, as ours do, are compelled to allow to every passenger "*twenty* clear superficial feet of deck."

It is also required that each passenger shall have a separate berth *six feet long and eighteen inches wide*. There can only be



two tiers of berths on each side of the vessel.

The Secretary says that the *berths* are not to interfere with the space occupied by each passenger. That is to say, each passenger is to have *twenty* superficial feet of deck, together with one *half the deck* occupied by the two *berths*, which is just *nine* feet. This then gives to each and every passenger twenty-four and a half superficial feet of deck.

And finally, it will be seen that every child, young or old, big or little, is to be counted a full passenger. If a child be unable to walk alone, or too young to keep itself in a berth, still it must have a *berth six feet long and eighteen inches wide*, and twenty superficial feet of deck beside, to *crawl* about in!

The *Liberia Packet* was constructed expressly for the convenience and comfort of passengers. By reference to our Number for November last, our readers will see the plan of the cabin for emigrants. It furnishes sufficient room and convenience for *one hundred and seventy emigrants*, counting every *two children* for one passenger.

The law of March 2d, 1819, "regulating passenger ships and vessels," allows any vessel to carry *two* passengers for every *five* tons of the vessel. The *Liberia Packet* measures 331 tons, and therefore had a right to carry one hundred and thirty-two

passengers, counting two children for one passenger.

But under the act passed at the last session of Congress, she can carry only *THIRTY-SEVEN*! There is a difference!

In view of this state of things the Company owning the *Packet* determined not to send her to Liberia this spring, but to await an alteration of the law, or some construction of the Secretary by which she shall be exempt from its operation! They spent upwards of \$3,000 in fitting up the emigrants' cabin.—They therefore cannot afford to run her with only 37 emigrants in her.

Were we to charter a vessel now to carry out emigrants under the operation of this law, each emigrant would cost us more than *four times* what we have been in the habit of paying. Our friends will at once perceive that this would be an expense which we have not the funds to meet. We have therefore determined to wait, and see what can be done. As the abovementioned act was undoubtedly passed mainly to regulate the bringing of emigrants into our own country, and as there is a manifest difference between carrying emigrants in a *merchant* vessel, and in a *regular Packet*, we cannot but hope we shall succeed in getting a dispensation from the act, till Congress meets again, when it will undoubtedly be suitably amended.

#### Letter from the Hon. Jos. Henry Lumpkin.

WE have the pleasure of laying before our readers the following highly beautiful and interesting letter from a gentleman well known in all parts of our country. We trust he will pardon us for publishing a private letter, written in answer to one informing him that he had been elected a Vice President of the Society:

ATHENS, March 18th, 1847.

DEAR SIR:—I accept, with pleasure, the office of Vice President, conferred on me by the American Colonization Society, at its last meeting. It is an honor of which

one may well be proud—to have their names enrolled in any enterprise with those of Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, Carroll, Crawford, and Clay, and many other bright worthies who were and are, the firm and efficient friends of African Colonization. I love and have long loved this noble cause. It is the only efficient scheme which philanthropy has yet devised for ameliorating the condition of the negro in this country and for diffusing the blessings of civilization and Christianity through the lands of his fathers.

And we must not despise this day of small things. This fair earth was once without form and void; but the spirit of



the Almighty moved upon the face of the waters and the chaotic mass was converted into a scene of surpassing beauty and grandeur—

"In every heightened form  
This finished fabric rose."

Faith in Nicodemus when he came to Jesus by night was only a grain of mustard, the smallest of all seeds. Trace the same principle to maturity, and it lays by parental hands an only son on the altar of burnt offerings; carries Daniel into the lion's den; builds an ark, and floats Noah and his family over a deluged world; subdues kingdoms; quenches the violence of fire; opens a passage through the Red Sea; prostrates the walls of Jericho; heals the sick; raises the dead; and, in the plentitude of its omnipotence, it says unto the Sun, "Stand thou still upon Gideon; and thou Moon in the valley of Ajalon"—and those mighty orbs instantly arrested in the midst of heaven.

How improbable that Abraham, an exile from Chaldea, should become the father of many nations. At length the set time to favor Israel arrives, and under David and Solomon the Jews rise to great splendor and take their station among the nations of the earth as a rich, powerful, and heroic people.

Behold Greece; to-day she is a horde of savages. A few colonists from Egypt and Phenicia invaded the coast and mingled with the native tribes. Contemplate her greatness and glory after her splendid victory over the Persian host on the plains of Marathon. Her dominion reaches from Cyprus to the Bosphorus, and from Pontus to Crim Tartary—an extent of one thousand miles and embracing intermediate islands. Her navy rides every sea in triumph; her cities adorned with sculpture and architecture, the broken fragments of which still remain and raise our ideas and admiration to the highest possible pitch of attainable perfections in the arts.

Trace the history of Rome from her origin to the meridian of her renown, and the boldest presumption will hesitate to predict from *what is, that which is to be*. In her infancy you behold a few shepherds and adventurers planted by Romulus on the

banks of the Tiber, constituting the one *fourth* part only of a people whose whole territory measured fifty miles in length and sixteen in breadth. How changed her condition when she had climbed to the summit of her elevation under the imperial Trajan! Her magnificent metropolis, bounded by a circumference of fifty miles, and including more than a million of inhabitants. View her temples, palaces, amphitheatres, fountains, bridges, aqueducts, marbles and monuments. How imposing the prospect! Her eagle stretching its wings from the wall of Antoninus in Britain to Mount Atlas in Africa—and from the Euphrates to the Western Ocean—and covering under their shadow one hundred and twenty millions of soldiers and subjects!

How signal the transformation in our own Government! But I will not dwell on Plymouth and Jamestown—nor of the colonization of the United States generally, begun in 1584 by Raleigh, and ended in 1732 by Oglethorpe. Less than two centuries ago, we were thirteen colonies, stretched along the coast of the Atlantic. Already our number of States is more than double; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be. But the day is coming when Greece and Rome, teeming as they did with their myriads of inhabitants, will be a desert in point of population, in wealth, and true greatness, compared with this country.

Let none then deride this undertaking, much less attempt to arrest its progress.—To do so, is treason to the best interest of this race, in both quarters of the globe.

Your letter, sir, found me engaged in endeavoring to persuade a bachelor friend with whom the welfare, present and future, of his slaves is an object uppermost in his heart, to send them to this land of promise to them and their offspring—the native home of the African—the grave-yard of every other race. I esteem it a privilege, I assure you, to labor in this great and good work.

Very sincerely yours,  
JOS. HENRY LUMPKIN.  
Rev. Wm. McLAIN,  
Washington City.

### Notice to the Clergy of all Denominations.

COLONIZATION ROOMS,  
Washington City, Feb., 1847.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—We are now making an effort to interest the Clergy

generally in *Colonization*, and induce them to take up collections in their churches, in the course of the year. I take the liberty of sending you herewith, a copy of

the *African Repository*, and propose that we will send it to you *gratis* for one year, if you are willing to receive it. Then, if you are inclined to aid the cause, by taking up a collection, or in any other way, we will continue to send you the *Repository gratis*. If not, you can ask your postmaster to notify us to discontinue it.

Allow me to express the hope, that this proposition will meet with your cordial approval, and that great good will result therefrom.

Every day's experience convinces us of the immense importance of Colonization to our own country and to Africa, and of the necessity of enlarging the sphere of our operations, and we find the circulation of the *Repository* exceedingly useful in this respect.

Yours, very respectfully,  
W. McLAIN,  
Secretary.

#### From Liberia.

THE Methodist Missionary Board have recently received advices from Monrovia of the severe indisposition of most of the white members of that mission. The Rev. Mr. Benham, the superintendent of the mission, was greatly reduced by repeated attacks of fever, and when he last wrote was obliged to do so while on his bed. He would visit the Cape de Verds as soon as an opportunity offered; and if his health is not improved, he will return to the United States in the spring. Mrs. Wilkins, the excellent and indefatigable school teacher,

was expected to accompany Mr. and Mrs. Benham to the Western island. The Rev. Mr. Hoyt has received permission to return home. We think it is now well ascertained that the climate of Africa will not suit Northern constitutions of white men. The first superintendent sent out by the Methodist Missionary Society was a gentleman born and educated in the West India islands, and he, although frequently enfeebled by attacks of the fever, remained in Liberia several years, and is now, we believe, in the enjoyment of excellent health.

#### Items of Intelligence.

MISSOURI COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held on the 23th ult., at St. Louis. Mr. Finley, the agent, reported that he had established a paper called the *Liberia Advocate*, of which he had circulated twenty thousand. He had met with many difficulties and an astonishing amount of ignorance about the principles of the society, but most of the prejudices were giving way and the prospects were very encouraging.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—Mr. Wise, Minister to Rio Janeiro, states that the United States schr. *Enterprise*, which was condemned at the Brooklyn navy yard two years ago, has made three successful voyages to Africa after slaves, and is now on the fourth. She sold for \$1,500, and in three months cleared her owners, to his knowledge, \$9,500.

#### Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

From the 20th March, to the 20th April, 1847.

##### CONNECTICUT.

By Rev. Samuel Cornelius:—  
*New Britain*—S. J. North, \$10,  
Henry North, \$6, Henry Stanley,  
\$5, H. Butler, Samuel Hart,  
Gad Stanley, Wm. H. Smith,  
each \$2, E. Peck, C. M. Lewis,  
Rev. S. Rockwell, each \$1,  
H. M. Butler, O. S. North,  
each 50 cts..... 33 00  
*Bristol*—Thomas Barnes, \$10, E.

C. Brewster, Captain Darrow,  
each \$3, C. Boardman, \$2, A.  
Norton, 50 cts., E. Ingraham,  
Ambrose Peck, each \$1, J. M.  
Thomas, 25 cts..... 20 75  
*Terryville*—Mr. Terry..... 10 00  
*Plymouth Hollow*—Seth Thomas,  
Sen., \$10, Seth Thomas, Jr., \$5. 15 00  
*Waterbury*—Wm. H. Scovill, \$10,  
Rev. Mr. Clark, \$2..... 12 00  
*New Haven*—J. Day, Henry White,

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To all who will send us THREE DOLLARS we will send a receipt *in full and free of postage*, for the years 1846 and 1847.

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## SECOND VOYAGE OF THE LIBERIA PACKET POSTPONED.

THE sailing of the Liberia Packet has been for the present postponed. For the reasons see on page 156 of the present Number—article headed “*Our Spring Expedition.*” We hope that by the 1st of September we shall be able to send her again.

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## ANNIVERSARY.

THE anniversary of the New York Colonization Society will be held in the Broadway Tabernacle on Tuesday evening, the 11th of May.

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## ALEXANDER'S HISTORY OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

THE above invaluable work is for sale at this office, and at the principal book stores in this city.

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## A HINT TO POSTMASTERS.

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